

# Stabi-Craft Marine Limited

Adventure with Confidence

## Media Release

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### Stabi-Craft saves lives on Murray River

The unrivalled stability of a Southland-built Stabi-Craft Marine boat has been credited with saving lives following a dramatic rescue on Australia's Murray River at the weekend.

Paul Marshall, of the Albury and Border Rescue Squad, said yesterday the safety features of the organisation's Stabi-Craft rescue vessel stopped rescuers from becoming victims themselves when the boat became submerged – but stayed afloat.

The drama unfolded when the squad was sent by police to a section of the Murray River near Albury on Saturday where an injured man needed pulled from the water.

"The victim was spotted floating down the river by two bystanders who were unable to get him to the bank due to the fast flowing water," Mr Marshall said.

"All three were swept downstream before becoming entangled in fallen trees. This enabled two bystanders to stand on the submerged branches and keep the injured man's head above water."

Rescuers positioned the Stabi-Craft with its nose to the current and slowly manoeuvred downstream to the victim.

"As we got closer to him it became clear most of his body was submerged underneath branches. We had to get our caged stretcher underneath him and lift him onto the Stabi-Craft," Mr Marshall said.

The situation then took a dangerous turn. The branches the two men assisting the victim had been standing on began to float to the surface and became caught between the motor and hull of the Stabi-Craft.

"As we began to power up the motor to manoeuvre free of the incident, the boat dipped violently at the rear due to the submerged branches and filled with water instantly," Mr Marshall said.

“All on board found themselves standing in knee deep water. Fortunately due to the inbuilt buoyancy of the Stabi-Craft we stayed afloat and were able to power back to the shore.”

Mr Marshall has no doubt the situation would have been worse if onboard another boat.

“I truly believe if we weren’t in the Stabi-Craft we would have submerged our boat in the fast flowing river and surely sunk,” he said.

“The agility and inbuilt safety features of the Stabi-Craft enabled us to remain afloat, rescue the victim and, above all, saved us from becoming victims ourselves.”

Stabi-Craft Marine managing director Paul Adams, of Invercargill, said yesterday the incident demonstrated the superior safety of the company’s boats.

“Over the past 20 years, we’ve focused on designing and building boats that are virtually unsinkable. While no-one likes to face this type of rescue scenario, at least a Stabi-Craft will get you home safely,” he said.

“We’re thrilled to hear the incident had such a positive outcome.”

Ends.

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